



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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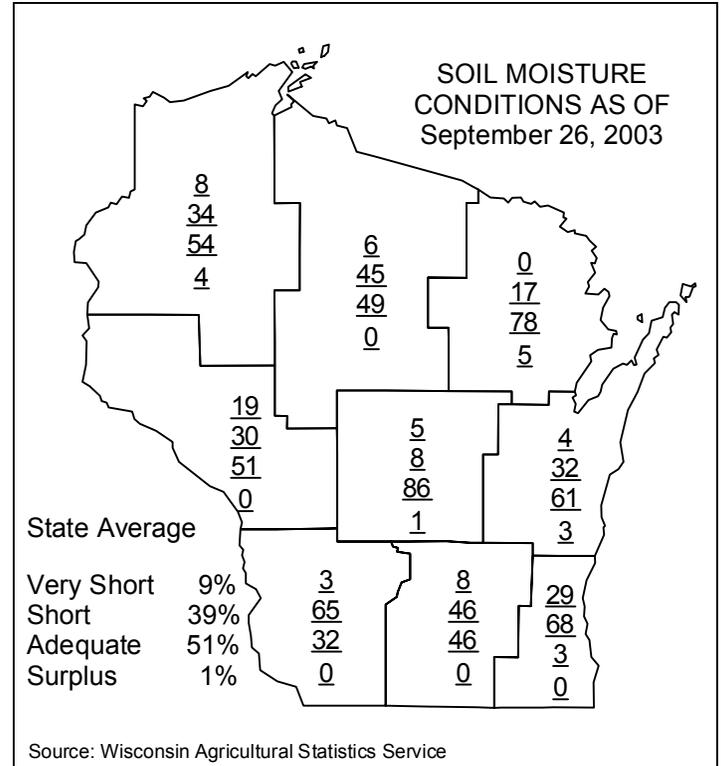
Fall Weather Arrives on Schedule

Cooler weather welcomed the first week of autumn for Wisconsin. Temperatures for the week were 2-5 degrees below normal. This stopped a trend of above normal temperatures since early August. The week saw scattered rains of mostly .5 inch or less. This allowed 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Rains are still quickly absorbed in dry areas. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated as 9% very short, 39% short, 51% adequate, and 1% surplus. Any and all rain is greatly appreciated by producers. The rains from the last few weeks will benefit dry alfalfa fields, fall tillage operations, and seeding of winter cover crops. There have only been scattered reports of frost, but most corn and soybean development has ended for the season. The recent rains have raised pasture feed conditions slightly to 18% very poor, 30% poor, 31% fair, 20% good, and 1% excellent.

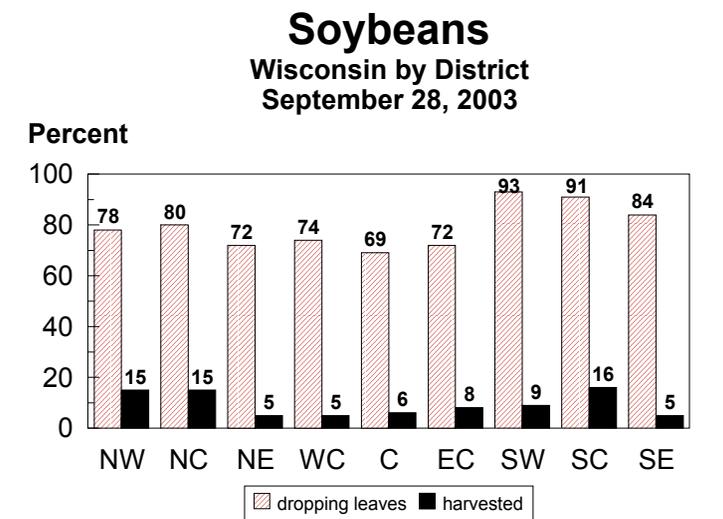
The harvest of the **corn** crop continued, with silage harvest well ahead of schedule at 81% complete, compared to last year's 56% and the 5-year average of 66% complete. Many producers are harvesting more corn silage than usual to augment forage supplies and to salvage stressed fields. The high moisture corn harvest is beginning around the state with corn moisture levels varying from 18% to above 30%. Some areas have begun harvesting corn for grain on early fields. Crop yields are lower than normal, but some farmers are reporting better than expected yields on heavier soils. **Soybean** harvest has started around the state, with disappointing yields in many areas. It appears that soybeans were damaged more by the summer's dry conditions. Early yields are reported from the low teens to mid-thirties per acre. Producers are hoping that longer season beans will have better production. Beans are reported to be small, and not many beans per plant on the short stems.

Recent rains have helped to revive **alfalfa** fields around the state. The renewed growth should help strengthen stands for next season. Quality has been good for most of the summer, but quantity was reduced from the dry weather. Producers are now waiting for a hard frost before taking a final harvest to aid low supplies. **Fall tillage** operations continued with planting of **winter wheat** and other cover crops. Early-planted winter wheat fields have emerged with varying stand strength.

With the arrival of fall, **apples** and late season vegetable crops are being offered at roadside stands. **Pumpkins** matured early, and **squash** varieties are readily available. **Potato** harvest continues, with good yields being reported. **Cranberry** growers in Portage County are keeping an eye on frost warnings.



Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	18	30	31	20	1
Corn	12	22	36	27	3
Soybeans	15	31	35	16	3



Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dent stage	91	95	86	95	93	86	98	99	93	94	93	92
Corn mature	51	48	40	63	59	50	54	56	50	55	48	63
Corn hrvtstd. for silage	83	86	70	85	78	67	89	90	85	81	56	66
Corn for grain harvested	8	8	2	8	3	8	4	6	4	7	0	5
Soybean dropping leaves	78	80	72	74	69	72	93	91	84	84	78	76
Soybeans harvested	15	15	5	5	6	8	9	16	5	11	6	10
Fourth cutting hay	13	10	10	47	25	25	52	37	27	29	45	46

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn for grain harvest began this week. Yields are in the 80-130 bushels range. Reports of soybean yields from 8-30 bushels per acre. Corn silage tonnage was good, but quality was low in most cases.

POLK-C.S.: Finishing up seeding winter wheat-some wheat going on harvested soybean fields. Corn moisture plus/minus 30 percent-yields average to less than average. Soybean yields about 20-25 bushels per acre. Very little fall tillage done.

PRICE-M.P.: Lots of corn going in for silage. There is no fall tillage in our area-too dry.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Corn silage yields were down, quality ok, moisture levels varied greatly. Lots of corn went for silage. Recent rains are helping topsoil moisture.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Corn silage harvest in full swing this week, with some very high tons per acre in the eastern part of the county. Some fields are actually too wet to harvest, but most are good. Soybeans are very near to harvest.

MONROE-W.H.: Corn silage yields are running around 35- 40 percent of normal on the lighter soils in the county. Some high moisture corn has been coming out. Soybean harvest has not begun yet. Things look better on the finer textured soils.

PEPIN-H.R.: Quality of third crop hay was very good. Third crop was very spotty because of light soils, or high spots on heavy soils were burned up by the dry weather. Very little fourth crop made. Some corn on light soils being combined for grain; small kernels and some light test weights. Some soybeans combined, but beans seem small. Some fall tillage started.

PORTAGE-J.W.: High moisture corn harvest is beginning. Soybean harvest continues. Light yields on fourth cut alfalfa. Fall tillage continues.

WOOD-M.L.: Some corn has been harvested as high moisture, corn silage yield was variable, but a bit better than expected. Quite a bit of fall tillage has been completed.

MANITOWOC-D.S.: Quantity of third crop alfalfa is good to excellent, quality below average. Weed and disease pressure very minor. Burned off alfalfa fields that will get planted to wheat with Touchdown and 240. Finished with corn silage and put in a week of liquid manure hauling. Moisture on corn silage varied from 62-70 percent. Quality and yield is excellent.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Third and fourth crop alfalfa quality were good, with producers harvesting much of it above 160 RFV. Tonnage was in the 1.3 to 1.5 range for most of the cuttings. Corn silage moisture was in the 58-65 percent moisture range late in the week. Rains early in the week will undoubtedly help alfalfa prepare for winter and help ease some of the stress put on the fields.

GRANT-L.F.: Third crop alfalfa that was not cut due to dry weather and length of plants are all in bloom, and quality will be lower. Also quantity is very small. Not much cutting of fourth crop alfalfa harvest due to farmers thinking it will hurt the plants. Some soybeans being combined, yields are small also beans are small. Most silage is made. No corn in our area is harvested, still testing 30-40 percent moisture. If it stays warm, more hay will be made.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Corn for grain or silage much better than expected. Worst soybeans I have ever seen.

DODGE-L.P.: Third crop alfalfa was short, not many made any fourth crop alfalfa yet. Corn was very dry in some fields and nice and green in others. Some planted winter wheat.

ROCK-C.O.: Soybean yields are very poor. Some as low as 4 bushels to the acre on ground that in a good year would be 40 bushels. Soybeans sprayed for aphids are yielding 7-10 bushels more than soybeans not sprayed. Corn is much better, but test weights are light. Plants are dry, but grain is not.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Corn drying down almost too dry for high moisture silo. Yields for soybeans running 10-50 bushels per acre. Have not heard of any wheat sown.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Fourth crop alfalfa cutting is uneven, may cut it after a frost. Corn is starting to fall down, ears look good. Soybeans are very uneven, need more time to mature. Wheat is being planted. Spraying is going on, some tillage.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 28, 2003

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Sep. 27	Mar. 1 to Sep. 27 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	60	45	68	41	52	-4	2716	2409	0.28	1.98	-1.43	19.81
Green Bay	63	44	71	40	54	-2	2329	2258	0.51	3.23	0.54	24.37
La Crosse	63	47	73	43	55	-5	2975	2713	0.17	2.60	-0.49	19.46
Madison	64	45	71	41	55	-3	2639	2666	0.14	4.21	1.41	20.68
Milwaukee	66	49	76	45	57	-3	2482	n.a.	0.60	0.91	-2.02	14.13

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.